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THE PROGRESS OF SCIENCE

THE RESOURCES AND THE INVENTIONS OF THE UNITED STATES

THE annual report of the Secretary of the Interior reads less like an official government document than like a sermon or a panegyric. This is obvious from the headings of the sections, which are: National pride in development; The foundations of power; The era of splendid giving; To use, not to hold or waste; Taming the rivers for use;

Places of beauty as an asset; Young America; The test of a democracy; Administrative effort. Mr. Lane, indeed, begins by defending his own method, telling us that those foreigners who write of our country often engage in facetious if not scornful comment upon our bombastic manner of telling the story of our growth and of the things achieved or possessed. But he says they fail to see far enough into the secret of our pride. "We have a passion for

THE UNITED STATES

Invention	Inventor	Date
Telephone.....	Bell.....	1876
Typewriter.....	Sholes.....	1878
Cash register.....	Patterson.....	1885
Incandescent lamp.....	Edison.....	1880
Talking machine.....	do.....	1878
Electric furnace reduction.....	Cowles.....	1885
Electrolytic alkali production.....	Castner.....	1890
Transparent photograph film.....	Eastman.....	1888
Motion-picture machine.....	Edison.....	1893
Buttonhole sewing machine.....	Reece.....	1881
Carborundum.....	Acheson.....	1891
Calcium carbide.....	Willson.....	1888
Artificial graphite.....	Acheson.....	1896
Split-phase induction motor.....	Tesla.....	1887
Air brake.....	Westinghouse.....	1869
Electric welding.....	Thomson.....	1889
Type-bar casting.....	Mergenthaler.....	1885
Chain-stitch shoeseving machine.....	French & Myers.....	1881
Single-type composing machine.....	Lanston.....	1887
Continuous-process match machine.....	Beecher.....	1888
Chrome tanning.....	Schulz.....	1884
Disk plows (modern type).....	Hardy.....	1896
Wet machine.....	Goodyear.....	1871
Electric lamp.....	Brush.....	1879
Recording adding machine.....	Burroughs.....	1888
Celluloid.....	Hyatt.....	1870
Automatic knot-tying harvester machine.....	Appleby.....	1880
Water gas.....	Lowe.....	1875
Machine for making barbed wire.....	Glidden.....	1875
Rotary converter.....	Bradley.....	1887
Automatic car coupler.....	Janney.....	1873
High-speed steel.....	Taylor & White.....	1901
Dry-air process for blast furnace.....	Gayley.....	1894
Block signals for railways.....	Robinson.....	1872
Trolley car.....	Van Depoele & Sprague.....	1884-1887
Harveyized armor plate.....	Harvey.....	1891

FOREIGN

Invention	Date	Inventor	Nationality
Electric steel	1900	Heroult.....	French.
Dynamite.....	1867	Nobel.....	Swedish.
Artificial alizarine (dye).....	1869	Graebe & Lieberman...	German.
Siphon recorder.....	1874	Thompson.....	English.
Gas engine, Otto cycle.....	1877	Otto.....	German.
Wireless telegraphy.....	1900	Marconi.....	Italian.
Smokeless powder.....	1886	Vielle.....	French.
Diesel oil motor.....	1900	Diesel.....	German.
Centrifugal creamer.....	1880	De Laval.....	Swedish.
Manganese steel.....	1884	Hadfield.....	English.
Electric transformer.....	1883	Gaulard & Gibbs.....	Do.
Cyanide process for extracting metal....	1888	Arthur & De Forrest....	Do.
Mantle burner.....	1890	Welsbach.....	Austrian.
By-product coke oven.....	1893	Hoffman.....	Do.

going into the unknown, for answering the puzzles that are put to us. Our imagination is challenged by difficulty. And the result has been a century of growth, which in its magic and in its largeness casts a spell upon the mind."

The story that Mr. Lane tells is indeed marvelous. We produce 66 per cent. of the world's petroleum, 60 per cent. of its copper, 40 per cent. of its coal and iron. Within fifty years we gave in subsidies to railroads public lands that exceeded in size a territory seven times as large as the state of Pennsylvania. We have given to the states, for the sustaining of their schools and other public institutions, an amount that our records do not accurately state, but thirteen western states were given over 67,000,000 acres. We have water power that can be made to generate perhaps as much as 60,000,000 horsepower. The waters that flow idly to the sea could be made to support not less than 50,000,000 people if turned upon the land.

Perhaps in some cases Mr. Lane over-exalts our achievements. For example, he tells us that the public-school system is the most successful social enterprise yet undertaken by any people, that on it we spend three-quarters of a billion dollars a year. "Education is indeed our foremost industry, from whatever point of view it may be regarded." But we should need to double the

amount spent in education to make it financially comparable with the advertising business, to quadruple it to rival the liquor trade.

Mr. Lane writes: "During the past fifty years the people of the United States have uttered two thirds of all the revolutionary epoch-making inventions of the world, ranging from the telephone and the incandescent lamp to Wright's aeroplane and high speed steel." In this case the evidence is supplied by the forty-three examining divisions of the patent office. It will not be convincing to foreign critics or to all Americans but is of sufficient interest to be reproduced.

RUINS OF THE MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK

THE large tract of land in southwestern Colorado, now known as the Mesa Verde National Park, was set aside from the Ute Reservation by an Act of Congress in 1906 on account of the numerous ruins of cliff dwellings which occur in its canyons. This enlightened legislation was in response to the universal recognition that these remains had an educational importance. It was largely brought about by the efforts of women of Colorado, members of a local state organization known as the Colorado Cliff Dwellers Association. At about this time or a few years before there was a general awakening of